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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 23 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 17 July 1996, Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries addressed a letter to you in which they requested you to include in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly a so-called item entitled "Consideration of the exceptional situation of the inability, resulting from General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), of the 21.3 million people on Taiwan, Republic of China, to participate in the activities of the United Nations". Upon instruction from my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows:

1. The letter and its annexes that appeared in document A/51/142 openly confound black and white and distort facts in a brazen attempt to create "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan". This not only constitutes a serious encroachment upon China's sovereignty and a gross interference in its internal affairs, but also gravely contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), at which the Chinese Government and people express their utmost indignation. We are firmly opposed to any illegal activities of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries in violation of the spirit of the Charter by any country under whatever pretext, and strongly urge Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries to redress immediately all their erroneous acts.

2. This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations. Reviewing the past helps us understand the present. Twenty-five years ago, the

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General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session adopted by an overwhelming majority its historically significant resolution 2758 (XXVI). The resolution recognizes in unmistakable terms that "representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council", and restores all "the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China" at the United Nations. The adoption of this resolution, embodying the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations is a historical necessity and a victory of justice. It has not only expelled the Taiwan authorities from China's seat in the United Nations, which they usurped in 1949, thus reversing the regression of history as a result of the Cold War and settling once and for all and in a just manner the question of China's representation at the United Nations, but also has foiled the schemes of a few countries to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" in the United Nations.

However, since 1993, Nicaragua and a very small number of other Member States bought over by the Taiwan authorities, moving against the historical trend, have gone so far as to challenge the authority of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and attempted to mislead the General Assembly to a consideration of the question of the so-called Taiwan's "representation". This is ignorance and mockery of history, pure and simple. The General Committee of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since the forty-eighth session have all made a just reply to this question, i.e., not to include the question of the so-called Taiwan's "representation" in the agenda of the General Assembly, which has reflected fully the strong will of the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations to safeguard the seriousness of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). If Nicaragua and some other countries continue to cling obstinately to their erroneous course and position, they will undoubtedly come to the same end and pay their own price for it.

3. As is known to all, Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times. The 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation reaffirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. The 158 countries that have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China so far all recognize that there is only one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing China in its entirety and that Taiwan is part of China. Though the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have been in a state of temporary separation since October 1949, the status of Taiwan as a part of the territory of the People's Republic of China has never changed, nor has the Government of the People's Republic of China ever given up its jurisdiction over Taiwan. No change to the way in which leaders of Taiwan are produced can change the fact that Taiwan is a part of the Chinese territory and that Taiwan's leaders are leaders of a region of China. Therefore, Taiwan has no qualifications whatsoever to join, in any form whatsoever, the United Nations or any intergovernmental international organizations of the United Nations system in which representatives of sovereign States participate.

4. The question of Taiwan is an internal affair of China which must be settled by the Chinese people. Any involvement by foreign forces constitutes an

interference in China's internal affairs, to which the Chinese people are strongly opposed. The struggle against the separation of Taiwan from its motherland and Taiwan independence, waged by the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, since June last year has fully demonstrated the resolve and ability of the Chinese Government and people to safeguard their State sovereignty and territorial integrity. This struggle has dealt a heavy blow to the forces seeking independence and separation on Taiwan and has produced a significant and far-reaching positive impact on the promotion of peaceful reunification. There will not be tensions in the relations between the two sides of the Strait and dialogue can also be resumed as long as Taiwan desists from seeking independence and separation, the Taiwan authorities stop their activities aimed at creating "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan" in the world and foreign forces stop supporting and conniving at the separatist moves by certain forces in Taiwan.

5. It is the strong aspiration and unshakable will of the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, as well as an irresistible historical trend to end the state of separation between the two sides of the Strait and accomplish the grand cause of national reunification of China. In order to achieve national reunification, the Chinese Government proposed as early as over a decade ago the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems". On 30 January 1995, the chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin, made an important statement in which he put forward an eight-point proposal on developing the relations between the two sides of the Strait and advancing the process of peaceful reunification of the motherland. This proposal has not only taken into consideration the long-term interests of the entire Chinese people but also accommodated and safeguarded the vital interests of the Taiwan compatriots, thus winning strong support from the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, as well as warm welcome from all people of insight that support China's reunification. The Chinese Government will adhere to this policy for a long time to come in order to promote the development of relations between the two sides of the Strait, thus creating more favourable conditions for peaceful reunification. There is no one in the world that is more concerned about the interests and future of the Taiwan compatriots than the Chinese Government and people. The reunification of the Chinese nation is the fundamental guarantee of the interests of the Taiwan compatriots. Only with the accomplishment of peaceful reunification can the Taiwan compatriots, together with other Chinese people of all ethnic groups, truly and fully enjoy the dignity and honour attained by their great motherland in the world. If the Taiwan authorities are really sincere, they should take concrete actions in this regard without any delay and, as the first step, talk with us about officially ending the state of hostility between the two sides and about other political issues on the basis of the "one China" principle. We welcome leaders of the Taiwan authorities to the mainland for a visit in an appropriate capacity. We are also ready to accept an invitation from the Taiwan side to visit Taiwan. We are convinced that the Chinese Government and people will continue to enjoy the understanding and support of the international community and Governments and peoples of Member States in their just cause of maintaining State sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 54 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
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Permanent Representative of the People's Republic
of China to the United Nations